

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for protecting a photodiode of an optical receiver from overload optical signals by monitoring an operating parameter of the photodiode, determining if the operating parameter indicates that the photodiode is in a potential overload state in which the photodiode is susceptible to an overload optical signal; and applying a predetermined safe gain setting to the photodiode if a potential overload state is detected. The potential overload state may be a loss of signal condition, or detection of an overload optical power incident the photodiode.